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## Germany

### Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

### AI: Outbreak in Commercial Duck Farm

**2007**

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**Report Highlights:**

High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in a commercial duck farm in the Erlangen/Nuremberg region, Bavaria, on August 25, 2007. All 169,857 ducks on the farm were destroyed. It remains unclear how the virus got into the flock. One possible source could be contaminated straw. Germany does not export any duck products to the U.S.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Berlin [GM1]  
[GM]

**H5N1 Cases Confirmed on Commercial Duck Farm**

On August 25, 2007, the German reference laboratory *Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut* (FLI) confirmed high pathogen avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in a commercial duck farm in Wachenroth, Bavaria. Wachenroth is situated in the county of Erlangen Hoechstadt approximately 12 miles (20 km) north west of the city of Erlangen and 18 miles (30 km) north west of the city of Nuremberg.

The farm including its own slaughter facility is part of a family owned company that has raised ducks since 1934. Last week one flock of 44,000 animals showed an increased death rate. As a consequence, a routine test for H5N1 was applied. When this test turned out positive for H5N1, samples were sent to the local veterinary office and the FLI. On August 25, FLI confirmed the high pathogenic strain of H5N1. Protection and surveillance zones around the farm were established immediately<sup>1</sup> and the destruction of all remaining ducks in the farm was ordered. The destruction was completed in the evening of August 26, 2007.

It remains unclear how the virus got into the flock. The farm from which the ducklings had originated as well as other farms that had received ducklings from the same breeder were examined and all tested negative for H5N1. One hypothesis is that the virus might have been transmitted through straw that was contaminated in the field by infected droppings from wild contaminated birds.

This farm is the only big commercial farm in the area. All other poultry holdings within the protection and surveillance zones consist of backyard farms or hobby holdings. All poultry holdings in the protection zone are being tested, so far all tests came out negative for H5N1.

The previous HPAI outbreak in Germany occurred on July 6, 2007 on a backyard farm with only 10 animals (five ducks and five geese, of which one goose was infected) in Thuringia, the last outbreak on a commercial farm occurred on April 4, 2006. For details see GAIN reports GM7030 and GM6015, respectively.

**Key Facts on the Poultry Sector in Germany**

In 2006, Germany produced 1.03 million MT of poultry meat and 804,000 MT or 13 billion pieces of eggs<sup>2</sup>. The production value at the producer level amounted to US\$ 1.66 billion (1.1 billion Euro) for poultry plus US\$ 680 million (544 million Euro) for eggs. In total, poultry and egg production holds a 4.4 percent share of the total German agricultural production.

According to the most recent animal census carried out in May 2005, Germany reports a total of 120.6 million live poultry animals. Broken down this represents 107 million chickens, thereof 50 million laying hens and chicks and 57 million broilers, plus 11 million turkeys, 2.4 million ducks, and 329,500 geese. Bavaria, where the incident happened accounted for eight percent of the German poultry population and ranked third within the 16 German states after

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<sup>1</sup> As a result of a reported suspected HPAI case, routinely, a 3 km protection zone is established for 21 days and a 10 km surveillance zone for 30 days. In the protection zone

- transport of birds, poultry and poultry meat is prohibited,
- birds and poultry have to be kept indoors,
- commercial poultry farms may only be entered by farm personnel and vets,
- mats with disinfectants have to be placed at the entrances and exits of poultry holdings, and
- cats and dogs are prohibited from roaming freely.

<sup>2</sup> This includes edible eggs and hatching eggs.

Lower-Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia who accounted for 44 and nine percent of the poultry population, respectively.

**Table: Poultry numbers in Bavaria, Saxony, and Germany in May 2005\***

	Germany	Bavaria
Chicken	107 million	9 million
Turkeys	11 million	659,900
Ducks	2.4 million	91,700
Geese	329,500	9,300
Total Poultry	120.6 million	9.8 million

\* Latest available data

Source: German Federal Office of Statistics, Wiesbaden

**Related reports:**

Report		Title	Date released
GM7030	Germany	AI update: Total Number Rises to 240 Wild Birds, One Goose on Backyard Farm	07/13/2007
GM7025	Germany	AI Re-Appears in Wild Birds	06/25/2007
GM6015	Germany	AI confirmed in a Commercial Poultry Farm - Consumer Reaction Limited	04/07/2006
GM6011	Germany	AI Update: AI confirmed in cats and suspected in a beech marten	03/10/2006
GM6008	Germany	AI update: 127 cases in wild birds none in domestic poultry	03/02/2006
GM6007	Germany	AI among wild birds reaches German mainland	02/21/2006
GM6005	Germany	AI Confirmed in Two Dead Swans in Northern Germany	02/16/2006
GM5042	Germany	Avian Influenza Update: Free Range Chicken Allowed Outside Again	12/19/2005
GM5035	Germany	AI-Threat: German Poultry Must Stay Inside - But Only in Certain Regions	09/12/2005